

News

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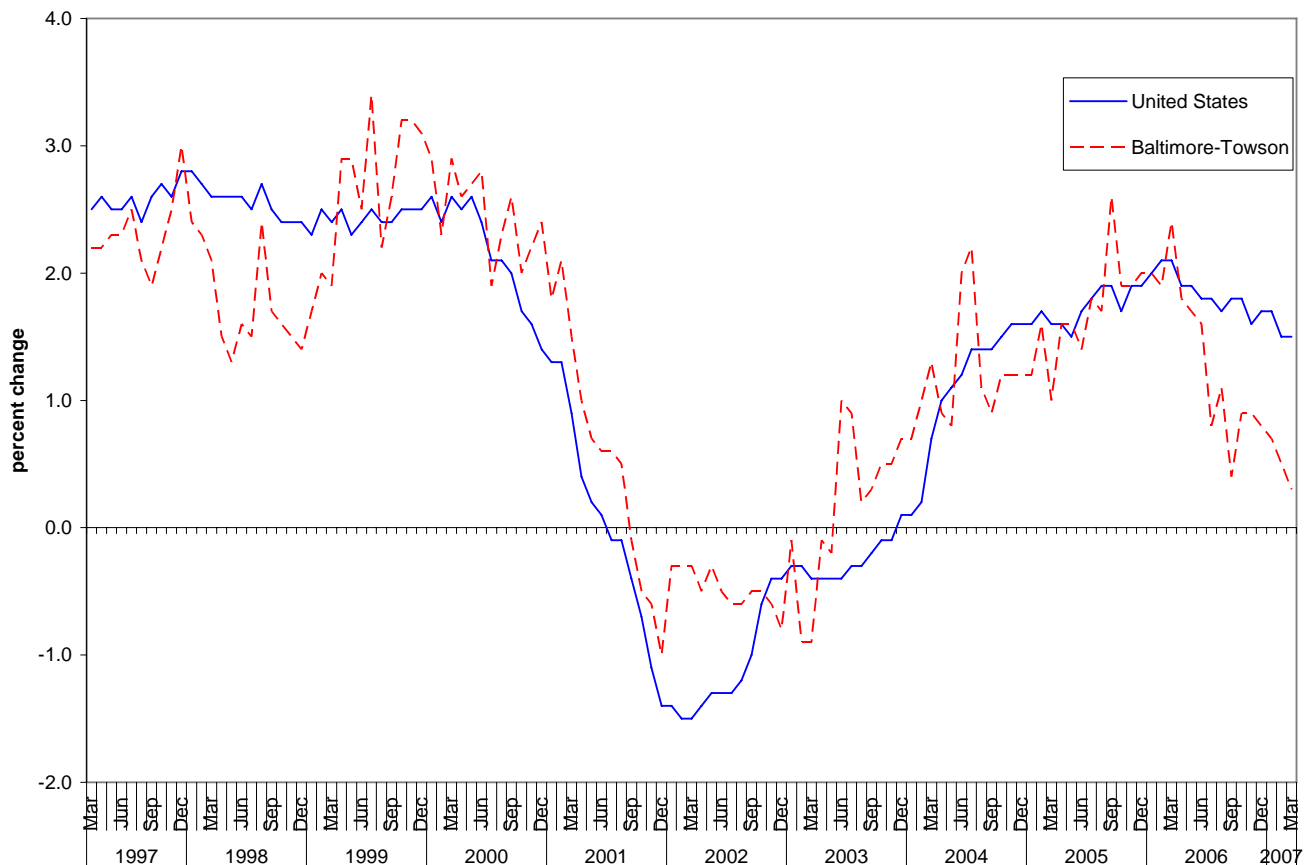
FOR RELEASE:

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2007

BALTIMORE-TOWSON METROPOLITAN AREA JOB COUNT IN MARCH 2007 ROSE BY 3,700 OVER THE YEAR

Total nonfarm employment for the Baltimore-Towson, Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area stood at 1,297,700 in March 2007, up 3,700 jobs over the year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. Regional Commissioner Sheila Watkins noted that Baltimore's 0.3-percent increase in employment over the 12-month period was slower than the 1.5-percent gain for the nation as a whole in March 2007. In fact, the over-the-year growth rate for jobs in the Baltimore area has lagged that for the U.S. since March 2006. (See chart A and table 1; Technical Note at end of release contains metropolitan area definitions. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

Chart A. Total nonfarm employment, over-the-year percent change in the U. S. and Baltimore-Towson, Md. metropolitan area, March 1997-March 2007



In the Baltimore metropolitan area, four industry supersectors (government, education and health services, professional and business services, and leisure and hospitality) added 1,000 or more jobs from March 2006 to March 2007, while three others (natural resources, mining, and construction; trade, transportation, and utilities; and manufacturing) lost 1,000 or more jobs over the same period. Employment in the remaining three supersectors (other services, financial activities, and information) was little changed from March a year ago in the metropolitan area. (See table 1.)

In the Baltimore area, over-the-year employment growth was led by the addition of 2,900 jobs in government—the 19th straight month of over-the-year gain in this industry supersector. The March 2007 advance represented a 1.3-percent increase. Nationwide, public sector employment also rose by 1.3 percent since March 2006. Government was the second-largest supersector in the Baltimore area in March 2007, accounting for 225,000, or 17.3 percent, of the jobs. For the nation as a whole, government accounted for 16.5 percent of the workforce.

Over the last 12 months, education and health services added 2,600 jobs, an increase of 1.2 percent. Baltimore's growth rate was lower than the national increase of 2.7 percent in this industry supersector. Over-the-year employment gains in education and health services have continued for 43 consecutive months in Baltimore.

The professional and business services supersector added 2,400 jobs in the Baltimore area from March 2006 to March 2007. The March 2007 advance represented a 1.3-percent increase, below the 2.2-percent growth rate for professional and business services in the United States during the same period. Since March 1990, the first year this data series was available for metropolitan areas, 68,000 professional and business services jobs have been added in Baltimore, an increase of 56.2 percent—the largest percentage gain of all supersectors.

Employment in leisure and hospitality rose by 1,200 in the Baltimore area, a gain of 1.1 percent. The area's growth rate for jobs in leisure and hospitality was well below the 3.3-percent increase nationwide.

Three industry supersectors lost jobs from March 2006 to March 2007. Employment in natural resources, mining, and construction fell by 1,100 in the metropolitan area over the year, a decrease of 1.3 percent.

Over the last year, trade, transportation, and utilities lost 2,200 jobs in Baltimore, a decrease of 0.9 percent. In contrast, employment in this supersector grew by 0.9 percent nationally. Trade, transportation, and utilities was the largest supersector in both Baltimore and the United States in March 2007, accounting for 18.6 and 19.1 percent of the workforce, respectively.

Among all the supersectors, manufacturing experienced the largest decline in jobs from March a year ago, falling by 2,500, a decrease of 3.4 percent. In the United States as a whole, employment in manufacturing fell by 0.7 percent. Since March 1990, employment on manufacturing payrolls has declined by 45.5 percent in the Baltimore area and by 20.8 percent nationwide.

Technical Note

This release presents nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program. The CES survey is a Federal-State cooperative endeavor in which State employment security agencies prepare the data using concepts, definitions, and technical procedures prescribed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2002 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. The employment data are estimated using a "link relative" technique in which a ratio (link relative) of current-month employment to that of the previous month is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are obtained by multiplying the estimates for the previous month by these ratios. Small-domain models are used as the official estimators for approximately 10 percent of CES published series.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports which are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Reliability of the estimates

The estimates presented in this release are based on sample survey and administrative data and thus are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability--that is, variation that occurs by chance because a sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data are also subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the special estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding.

Employment estimates. Measures of sampling error for state CES data at the supersector level are available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/790stderr.htm>. Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/>.

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated February 18, 2004. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is published annually in the May issue of Employment and Earnings.

The Baltimore-Towson, Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Howard, and Queen Anne's Counties and Baltimore City in Maryland.

Additional information

More complete information on the technical procedures used to develop these estimates and additional data appear in *Employment and Earnings*, which is available by subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (telephone 202-512-1800).

Industry employment data for states and metropolitan areas from the CES program are also available in the above mentioned news releases and from the Internet at (<http://www.bls.gov/sae/>).

For personal assistance or further information on the Current Employment Statistics program, as well as other Bureau programs, contact the Mid-Atlantic Information Office at 215-597-3282 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. ET.

Table 1. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry supersector, U.S. and Baltimore-Towson, Md. metropolitan area, not seasonally adjusted (numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	Mar. 2006	Jan. 2007	Feb. 2007	Mar. 2007(p)	Mar. 2006 to Mar. 2007(p)	
					Net change	Percent change
United States¹						
Total nonfarm	134,868	135,189	135,903	136,842	1,974	1.5
Natural resource and mining	654	689	693	700	46	7.0
Construction	7,337	7,290	7,177	7,357	20	0.3
Manufacturing	14,141	14,010	14,015	14,038	-103	-0.7
Trade, transportation, & utilities	25,928	26,180	25,996	26,163	235	0.9
Information	3,048	3,053	3,075	3,073	25	0.8
Financial activities	8,282	8,383	8,404	8,415	133	1.6
Professional & business services	17,225	17,408	17,504	17,611	386	2.2
Education & health services	17,862	17,988	18,253	18,350	488	2.7
Leisure & hospitality	12,674	12,792	12,891	13,096	422	3.3
Other services	5,410	5,378	5,408	5,440	30	0.6
Government	22,307	22,018	22,487	22,599	292	1.3
Baltimore-Towson Md. Metropolitan Statistical Area						
Total nonfarm	1,294.0	1,282.7	1,285.9	1,297.7	3.7	0.3
Natural resources, mining and construction	84.7	83.7	82.5	83.6	-1.1	-1.3
Manufacturing	73.9	71.5	71.4	71.4	-2.5	-3.4
Trade, transportation, & utilities	243.5	241.9	239.3	241.3	-2.2	-0.9
Information	20.7	20.2	20.2	20.3	-0.4	-1.9
Financial activities	83.0	82.6	82.6	83.1	0.1	0.1
Professional & business services	186.6	186.0	186.8	189.0	2.4	1.3
Education & health services	215.8	216.2	217.7	218.4	2.6	1.2
Leisure & hospitality	108.5	107.7	107.4	109.7	1.2	1.1
Other services	55.2	54.9	55.3	55.9	0.7	1.3
Government	222.1	218.0	222.7	225.0	2.9	1.3

(p) = preliminary

¹ February 2007 data for the U.S. are preliminary.